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Fifty-first session
Agenda item 2

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING POLICIES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATION, IN ALL COUNTRIES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION UNDER COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION 8 (XXIII)

Letter dated 6 August 1999 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the fifty-first session of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Position Paper of the Chinese Government on the Outlawing of the Falun Gong Organization (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could have this letter and its annex* circulated as an official document under item 2 of the agenda of the fifty-first session of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

(Signed): QIAO ZONGHUAI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* The annex is reproduced as received, in English and Chinese only.

Annex

Position Paper of the Chinese Government on the Outlawing of the Falun Gong Organizations

1. This decision is based on ample evidence.

By taking advantage of the desire of the people to build up their health, Li Hongzhi, the ring leader of Falun Gong organizations, has concocted a hotchpotch of heresies and fallacies composed of plagiarized Qi Gong instructions and lots of superstitious ravings, which he has named the "Falun Dafa". He has peddled his preposterous fallacies that the earth will blow up and the doomsday is coming in an attempt to confuse and poison people's mind, and fool and deceive people. This set of absurdities and fallacies have made people confused and paranoid. As a result, many people have become psychotic, disabled, and suicidal (according to initial statistics, 915 people died as a result of practicing Falun Gong), or even killed their family members. And they would besiege and censure those who do not follow their fallacies. Recently, they have, for many times, surrounded media institutions, harassed government agencies, and caused traffic jams, seriously obstructing public order.

What Li Hongzhi and the Falun Gong organizations have done and the harms they have caused to the society are in many aspects similar to those of the Davidians cult in the U.S., the Aum Doomsday Cult in Japan and the People's Temple in some other countries. The decision by the relevant departments in China to outlaw them is perfectly right and therefore, it has obtained support from all quarters in the society and has been welcomed by the people.

2. This action is taken in strict compliance with law.

China is a country ruled by law and the Government of China protects the citizens' freedom of assembly according to law. At present, there are over 1,800 registered national social organizations, and 200,000 social groups above the county level, which have registered with the local civil affairs departments. Be it an individual or organization, one must fulfil one's obligations according to all countries to register assemblies. However, instead of registering itself according to law, the Falun Gong group has spared no efforts in conducting illegal activities. This is definitely impermissible.

The Chinese Government is also committed to promoting and protecting the freedom of religious belief and our law protects normal religious activities. But the Falun Gong is not a religion and the Falun Gong organizations have never claimed so.

3. The purpose of this action is to protect the rights and freedoms of the Chinese people.

The Chinese Government has always attached importance to human rights and

fundamental freedoms and respected international human rights instruments. While emphasizing rights and freedoms, international human rights instruments like the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* and *the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* also have unambiguous provisions on the necessary restrictions on the exercise of certain rights, with a view to safeguarding state security, public security, public order and hygiene as well as the rights and freedoms of other people. Preaching absurdities and fallacies, the Falun Gong organizations have caused grave dangers and harms to the life of some people and the society in general. To outlaw such organizations will not at all infringe upon human rights or religious freedom. On the contrary, it is precisely designed to protect the human rights of all the people in the country, including those of Falun Gong victims.

4. This action is consistent with the practice of all the other countries in the world.

It is a common practice of all countries to outlaw social organizations which have not registered or which have engaged in illegal activities and to crack down on evil cults and organizations that endanger the society and public interests.

5. The relevant authorities of China have not taken any coercive action against the practitioners. Rather, they mainly used persuasion with them in the hope that they will extricate themselves from the predicament on their own accord. By now, most practitioners, having realized the true nature of Falun Gong, have repudiated the practice. The practitioners, as long as they voluntarily disengage from Falun Gong organizations and refrain from taking part in any of their activities, they will not be held accountable in any way.

Annex:

I. Li Hongzhi: The Man and His Deeds

1. Li Hongzhi, the founder of Falun Gong, is not the "highest Buddha" who brings salvation to suffering people, but an evil person who has an disastrous effect on society.

Li was born in the city of Gongzhuling in China's Jilin Province on July 7, 1952. He went to primary and junior high school in Changchun, the provincial capital, from 1960 to 1969. From 1970 to 1978, he worked on a People's Liberation Army stud farm and then as a trumpet player in a band. From 1978 to 1982, he worked as an attendant at a guesthouse. Li was discharged from military service in 1982 and went to work in the security department of the Changchun City Cereals and Oil Company. In 1991, he quit this job and began practicing "Qigong", a form of martial arts that combines meditation and breathing techniques and is believed to tap the practitioner's inner strength. In May 1992, Li started to teach Falun Gong.

In a resume he prepared in 1993, Li claimed that he has started learning a special form of Qigong in childhood from a Buddhist master, Quanyue, and completed his training at the age of eight, and that a Taoist immortal, Bai, discovered him when he was twelve and taught him Taoist practices. Then, in 1972, he learned the essence of Taoism from a master, Zhendaozi, and in 1974 started to study Buddhism from another Buddhist master until he entered public life. Li also claims that he has supernatural abilities such as the ability to move objects, control thinking, and make himself invisible and that he understands the truth of the universe and has insights into life and can see the past and future.

On September 24,1994, Li changed his date of birth from July 7, 1952 to May 13, 1951 and acquired a new ID card. On the Chinese lunar calendar, May 13 is the birthday of Sakyamuni, the founder of Buddhism, so by changing his birthday Li could pretend that he is a reincarnation of Sakyamuni.

However, Li's family members, relatives, neighbors, former schoolmates, teachers, and fellow servicemen say that they believe Li is just an ordinary person and that his so-called Qigong learning and miraculous abilities were "nonsense"or "impossible" or something they had never seen. His only talent in childhood, many said, was the ability to play the trumpet.

Li actually did not start learning Qigong until 1988, under a master named Li Weidong, with whom he studied Chanmi Gong. He then went on to study Jiugongbagua Gong from another master, Yu Guangsheng. Using these two forms of Qigong, with some movements from Thai dance that he got from a visit to Thailand thrown in , he came up with Falun Gong. Li's resume consists of nothing but fabrication and outrageous lies.

2. The Research Society of Falun Dafa is an illegal organization with no official registration status, but with a tight system.

After founding Falun Gong in 1992, Li established the Research Society of Falun Dafa in Beijing and made himself president. Following that, he set up 39 Falun Gong teaching centers in various provinces, autonomous regions And municipalities in China, which in turn had more than 1,900 places of instruction and more than 28,000 group exercise areas.

The Research Society of Falun Dafa manages all affairs of the teaching centers and rules on the setup of any Falun Gong organizations, with the power to appoint or remove their major leaders. Li and the research society also make rules and regulations for all Falun Gong activities.

Since May this year, Falun Gong practitioners in China have received instructions from Li, who is living abroad, in the form of "scriptures". Because of the Falun Gong organization, instructions spread very fast and have an evil influence on a large number

of people.

The Research Society of Falun Dafa and general instruction stations organize large-scale activities to "spread the Falun word and to exchange experiences and hold various celebrations and commemoration ceremonies." On several occasions, when they were dissatisfied with news reports and articles that exposed the dark secrets of Falun Gong or when government departments banned books and audio-video products preaching the Falun word, they instigated their members to besiege some news organizations, publishers, or Party and government departments, disrupting the normal work and social order and undermining social stability.

3. Li's so called ignorance of the "4.25" incident was nothing but a lie.

On April 25, more than 10,000 Falun Gong practitioners gathered outside Zhongnanhai, the government compounds in Beijing, seriously disrupting public order, with a malignant effect. Li told foreign correspondents that he has known nothing about it in advance and that he was on his way from the United States to Australia at the time. He said that he didn't learn about the incident until he was in Brisbane.

However, it has been proven that Li was in Beijing the day before the incident. On April 19, *Teenager Science-Technology Outlook*, a Tianjin Normal University magazine, carried an article entitled "I'm Opposed to Qigong Practice by Teenagers" by Professor He Zuoxiu of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Some Falun Gong practitioners in Tianjin took offense at the article and staged a silent protest at the university. By April 22, there were more than 3,000 of them.

Li flew back to China on Northwest Airlines Flight 087, entering Beijing at 5:35 p.m. on April 22, then, after a stay of 44 hours, left in a hurry for Hong Kong at 1:30 p.m. on April 24 on Air China Flight 109.

On April 23, the day after he entered China, the number of Falun Gong practitioners at Tianjin Normal University swelled to more than 6,300. By the morning of April 24, while Li was still in Beijing, Falun group exercise sites around Beijing had received notices that practitioners were to go to Zhongnanhai for a "group exercise."

By the time more than 10,000 exercisers showed up at Zhongnanhai on April 25, Li was in Hong Kong. He didn't leave Hong Kong for Brisbane until 10:15 p.m. on April 27.

4. In spreading the Falun Gong word, Li cast himself up as the "highest Buddha" who has transcended all secular desires. But, in real life he displays an enormous greed.

In the early years of "spreading Falun Gong," Li attracted followers by supposedly curing their ailments and helping them improve their health. There was a special

"donation box" at his home and he instructed with a hint his assistants to tell every patient to donate at least RMB 100 yuan (US$12) for each visit.

Li also collected a large amount of money from training classes. From 1993 to 1994, he was reported to have earned 428,300 yuan (US $ 51,600) in Changchun from teaching Falun exercises and from book sales. At the same time, he earned another 789,000 (US $ 95,060) in other parts of China from classes.

Li also publishes a large number of books, cassette tapes, video tapes, and video CDs with his teachings and sells them to Falun Gong practitioners for 300 yuan (US $ 37) a set. He has encouraged people to believe that his photo and "Falun emblems" with his image can have a "miraculous and inspirational effect" and encourages people to buy them.

In recent years, he has come up with new Falun products like special clothing and cushions for Falun Gong practitioners and has reissued his books in a deluxe edition that sells at a higher price.

Investigators have found that Li has several luxury houses and limousines in Beijing and Changchun in his relatives names and, through the Falun Gong, he has got a large fortune on which he has not paid taxes.

5. Li is not bringing salvation to practitioners, but is in fact leading them to a dasastrous and miserable end, and Falun Gong is doing enormous harm to both mental and physical health of people.

In his book Zhuan Falun (Turn the Wheel of Law) and in several of his "sermons", Li has said that there is a white material called "de" (morality) with an opposite side that is dark, called "ye" (evil). By practicing Falun Gong, he says, people can be helped by the Falun (Wheel of Law) and improve their "de" and reduce the "ye" force and purify their bodies and achieve enlightenment and immortality. Practitioners can ultimately attain "salvation and reach the heavenly kingdom," or paradise.

Li also speaks of karma, or predetermination, and says that illness and other suffering is "retribution for evil deeds one has done in the past or in a past life, and that by enduring this suffering one can repay his or her evil debt." He says that anyone who believes in and practices Falun Gong doesn' t need to take medicine to cure disease.

Li has criticized people who try to persuade others not to practice Falun Gong, calling them "demons" and saying that they have harmed the Falun Dafa and have prevented people from attaining "salvation".

As a result of Li' s malicious fallacies and deceptive behavior, some Falun Gong

practitioners have refused to go to hospital or take medicine for their diseases, and some have lost their lives because of lack of treatment, and some became paranoid. A number of people jumped into rivers or off buildings, or killed themselves in other ways. Some even cruelly injured or killed relatives and friends.

According to initial statistics, two madhouses alone in Beijing received six patients who became lunatic due to practice of Falun Gong in 1996. The number of such patients increased to 10 in 1997, 22 in 1998, and 16 during the first half of 1999. And altogether 915 people died as a result of practicing Falun Gong.

II. Analysis of Falun Gong Leader's Malicious Fallacies

Falun Gong headed by Li Hongzhi, has a set of ridiculous ideas, a basic one of which claims that doomsday is coming, that human beings will be extinct soon, that modern science can do nothing to prevent the catastrophe, that only Falun Gong can save the mankind, and that Li Hongzhi is the sole "savior".

Because of this doomsday prediction, Li ordered his followers to concentrate on their Falun Gong and forbid them to hold any other belief. Human civilization has experienced at least 81 periodic changes, he says, and society is now deteriorating and if this trend continues, it will be exterminated.

Anyone with any sense can find that during different periods of human history there have been certain social problems, big and small, and that civilization is still evolving in the course of the problems being solved one after another.

Therefore, Li's doomsday idea denies the truth of the existing world and it has created strong anti-government and anti-social sentiments. Its true purpose is to win public support for his wicked political ambitions.

That government is useless is another of Li's ideas, one to make Falun Gong the ruling ideology in the world and to allow him to seize power that "overruns the government and the law." Social problems have been emerging, he said, and no government can solve them. And, because neither the government nor the law can solve social problems, he should be the rightful ruler.

He has renounced modern science and said the world should listen to him, otherwise everything will be lost.

Li said that Falun Dafa is the only grand theory that can save the mankind and is the most profound and superb of all sciences and philosophies and a ladder for people to ascend to heaven.

Li has held up a banner of "Truthfulness, Benevolence and Tolerance " but cannot stand any criticism or alternative views. Whenever Falun Gong is criticized, he gets his followers to create a disturbance. Their attacks by gathering outside media organizations' office buildings in 1998 and outside the headquarters of the Tianjin Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of China and Zhongnanhai, the compound of the central Party and government organs, in Beijing in April this year can in no way be considered tolerant.

Li said that to practice Falun Gong well, people must make a clean break with other ideas and cannot mention what they learned before and are forbidden to use what they feel, see or know, or the doctrines of other sects, otherwise, they will learn a false grand theory and damage the grand theory.

By spreading these fallacious ideas Li has actually signed a life-and -death contract with his followers, who have to obey all his instructions and depend on him for everything. He forbids them to read other books or learn other theories and deprives them of the ability to choose between right and wrong.

With these means and the tight controls of the highly organized group, Li forces practitioners to follow his fallacious ideas. He has also borrowed Buddhist doctrines to deify himself and claims that he possesses the "body of law" and can install "the wheel of law" in practitioners and give them extrasensory perception.

Some followers were deceived by this and began to look for supernatural powers and many have become psychopathic. In 1997 and 1998 a fifth of the patients in the psychopath ward of a hospital were Falun Gong practitioners.

Li usually belittles great scientists like Charles Darwin and Issac Newton, although he himself is just a junior middle school graduate who doesn't know the difference between organism and minerals. He said that he is the only person who can explain the mysteries of the universe and that the earth is nothing but a garbage dump. He also says that man was created by gods and life and death and disease are debts acquired in previous lives.